GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3552
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations from Rajasthan to provide cent percent Central assistance under the Desert Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the circumstances under which assistance under Desert Development Programme to the State has been slashed to 75 percent;

(d) whether the State is reeling under severe drought/famine for the last three years;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to consider restoring cent percent assistance to the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Government of Rajasthanhave requested for restoration of cent percent Central assistance under the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on account of resource constraints faced by the State Government.

(c) to (f) To bring about uniformity in funding of all the rural employment and poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry, a policy decision was taken by Government of India in consultation with the Statesto revise the funding pattern of these programmes to 75:25 sharing between the Central and State Governments. Consequently the funding pattern of DesertDevelopment Programme was also revised from 100% central assistance to 75:25 sharing between Central and State Governments w.e.f.1.4.1999. This decision applies to all the States including Rajasthan covered under the Programme which aims at minimizing the adverse effects of drought and control desertification through long term preventive measures like soil and water conservation, afforestation and pasture development, sand dune stabilization, shelterbelt plantations etc. instead of providing immediate relief to the affected people after the calamity occurs. Provision of 25% share by the State Governments ensures their active participation in the Programme. As such, provision of cent percent central assistance under the Desert Development Programme is not under consideration of the Central Government.